

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 have been cancelled without prejudice.

New claims 37-76 have been added.

Independent claims 37 through 44 are based on previously submitted independent claim 1 and more clearly define the invention. Support for these claims is found throughout the specification and the original claims, or is inherent in the invention as originally described. More specifically, see Examples 1 and 2; pages 18 lines 24 through page 19 line 15 for a general discussion of the invention; page 20 lines 1-19 for bioconjugate couples; page 20 line 21 through page 21 line 11 for polymers; page 21 lines 13-30 for surfaces; page 22 line 17-20 for biomolecules; page 23 line 21 through page 25 line 33 for oligonucleotide/polymer/surface systems; page 26 line 1 through page 28 line 27 for polynucleotide/polymer/surface systems; page 29 line 1 through page 30 line 26 for protein/polymer/surface systems; and page 31 line 1-19 for peptide/polymer/surface systems.

New claims 45 through 60 parallel the substance of original claim 2.

New claims 61 through 68 parallel the substance of original claim 13.

New claims 69 through 72 are directed to the biomolecule/polymer conjugate prepared in claims 37 through 40, which were not previously claimed but are fully supported by the specification. See Examples 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7.

New claims 73 through 76 more clearly define the method for preparation of polynucleotide/polymer/surface system and parallel the substance of original claim 25. Support for these claims is found in Figure 7, Examples 3, 4 and 5 as well as page 26 line 1 through page 28 line 27.

Applicant believes that none of the amendments above add new matter to the specification.

PATENTABILITY ARGUMENTS**A. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 Second Paragraph**

The Examiner has rejected Applicant's claims 1-36 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has deleted claims 1-36, consequently the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, are moot. Applicant respectfully requests that in view of these new claims the Examiner remove these rejections.

B. Rejections under 35 U.S.C §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-26 under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Koster et al.* (6,133,436) "436" in view of *Mirzabekov et al.* (5,981,734) "734" and *Conrad et al.* (5,276,013) "013" and *Rampal* (6,013,789) "789". Applicant has deleted claims 1-26 consequently the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over patent 436 in view of patents 734, 013 and 789 are moot. Applicant respectfully requests that in view of these new claims the Examiner remove these rejections.

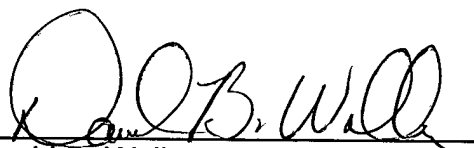
The Examiner further rejects claims 27-36 under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over the references applied to claims 1-26 and further in view of *Laguzza et al.* (4,801,688) "688" and *Howard Jr. et al.* (5,262,317) "317" and *Olsen et al.* (6,114,509) "509". Applicant has deleted claims 27-36 consequently the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over patent 436 in view of patents 734, 013 789, 688, 317 and 509 are moot. Applicant respectfully requests that in view of these new claims the Examiner remove these rejections.

CONCLUSION

In view of new claims submitted by Applicant the invention now satisfies the statutory requirements for patentability. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner issue an allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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